

### REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks

Claims 26-33 and 38-40 are presented for consideration. Claims 26 and 38-40 are independent. Claims 34-37 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 26, 38 and 39 have been amended to clarify features of the subject invention. Support for these changes can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claims 26-40 were previously allowed in this application. Applicant submits that the foregoing changes do not substantively affect the allowability of claims 26-33 and 38-40. Applicant submits, therefore, that these claims patentably define features of the exposure apparatus and the device manufacturing method of the present invention. Accordingly, the instant application should be in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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